IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method comprising;

defining a stored data set maintained by a first entity of a computer system to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set, the stored data set being stored in memory, the unlocked data set being available for modification and the locked data set being protected from modification;

transmitting the locked data set and the unlocked data set to a second entity; and

reversing the locked data set and the unlocked data set at the second entity, such that the locked data set becomes an unlocked data set being available for modification and the unlocked data set becomes a locked data set being protected from modification.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the defining of the stored data set maintained by the first entity to include the locked data set and the unlocked data set includes defining the locked data set to include information to call an the application and the unlocked data set to include data to be used by the application.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the defining of the stored data set maintained by the first entity to include the locked data set and the unlocked set includes defining version data for an application as the locked data set and defining raw data for the second entity to look at or use as the unlocked data.

7-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the stored data set to include the a-locked data set and the an-unlocked data set further includes defining the stored data set to

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include a restricted data set including data that is not part of the locked data set or the unlocked data set.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the stored data set to include the ~~a~~ locked data set and the ~~an~~ unlocked data set further includes assigning data to the locked data set based on closeness criteria.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein assigning data to the locked data set based on closeness criteria includes assigning data to the locked data set based on at least one of geometric closeness, organizational closeness, and collective closeness.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the stored data set to include the ~~a~~ locked data set and the ~~an~~ unlocked data set includes assigning data in the stored data set to the locked data set and the unlocked data set based on a function of the second entity.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the stored data set to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set includes defining the stored data set to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set for the second entity, the method further comprising:

defining data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for other entities.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein defining data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for other entities includes defining data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for all other entities during a period of time when the second entity has access to the unlocked data set.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving modified data from the second entity; and

integrating the modified data into the stored data set.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein defining the stored data set to include

the ~~a~~ locked data set and the ~~an~~ unlocked data set includes defining the stored data set to include

a locked data set and an unlocked data set based on user input.

20. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of sharing information,

comprising:

defining a master data set in a first entity of a computer system, the master data

set being stored in memory;

assigning permissions, including permission to change a first subset of data within

the master data set based on predetermined criteria, the permissions indicating operations that a

second entity may perform on the first subset data and applications that the second entity may

use for manipulating the first subset of data;

transmitting a copy of the master data set with indications of the permissions to

the second entity, the transmitted copy of the master data set including locked and unlocked data,

the locked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to unlocked data in the

master data set in the first entity and the unlocked data in the received copy of the master data set

corresponding to locked data in the master data set in the first entity; and

receiving a manipulated master data set in accordance with the assigned

permissions from the second entity, the manipulated master data set including a second subset of

data resulting from the first subset of data being manipulated by the second entity using one or

more of the operations indicated in the permissions.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising receiving a modified copy of the

master data set from the second entity and integrating the modified copy of the master data set

with the master data set.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein receiving the modified copy of the master data

set includes receiving additional data.

23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein receiving the modified copy of the master data set includes receiving changed data.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein receiving changed data includes receiving data that has been changed in response to design considerations.

25. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning authority to read data.

26. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning authority to change data that is a subset of the transmitted copy of the master data.

27. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning authority to add data.

28. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning authority to delete data.

29. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning authority to access predetermined types of data within the subset.

30. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning permissions based on at least one of an identity of an entity, a function of the entity and a user's position within the entity.

31. (Original) The method of claim 30, wherein assigning permissions based on the user's position within the entity includes assigning permissions according to a hierarchy within the second entity so that a highest ranking member of an entity has a greater number of permissions, and a number and extent of permissions decrease as rank decreases.

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32. (Original) The method of claim 20, wherein assigning permissions includes assigning different permissions for different subsets of the unlocked data.

33. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of sharing information, comprising:

receiving, from a first entity of a computer system, a copy of a master data set, the master data set including locked and unlocked data and being stored in memory, the received copy of the master data set including locked and unlocked data, the locked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to the unlocked data in the master data set and the unlocked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to the locked data in the master data set;

modifying the copy of the master data set; and

transmitting the modified copy of the master data set to the first entity.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving the copy of the master data set in a second entity includes receiving the copy of the master data set in a computer application.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34, wherein receiving the copy of the master data set in a computer application includes receiving version information regarding the computer application in the locked data and receiving raw data for manipulation in the unlocked data.

36. (Original) The method of claim 33, wherein modifying the copy of the master data set includes performing design processes on the unlocked portion of the data.

37. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving the copy of the master data set ~~with permissions for using the master data set~~ includes receiving permissions to do at least one of read, change, delete and add data to the unlocked data.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving the copy of the master data set ~~with permissions for using the master data set~~ includes receiving the copy of the master data

set with permissions based on subsets of the unlocked data, with different permissions assigned

for different subsets of the unlocked data.

39. (Currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving the copy of the master data

set ~~with permissions for using the master data set~~ includes receiving the copy of the master data

set with permissions based on at least one of an identity of the second entity, a function of the

second entity and a hierarchy of users within the second entity.

40. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, tangibly stored on one or more

computer-readable storage devices, the computer program product comprising instructions

operable to cause a programmable processor to:

        define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and

an unlocked data set, the unlocked data set being available for modification and the locked data

set being protected from modification

        transmit the locked data set and the unlocked data set to a second entity; and

        reverse the locked data set and the unlocked data set at the second entity, such that

the locked data set becomes an unlocked data set being available for modification and the

unlocked data set becomes a locked data set being protected from modification.

41. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions

include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor to provide an application in

a computer system with access to the stored data set.

42. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the instructions

include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor to provide an application

maintained at a location external to the first entity with access to the stored data set.

43. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the instructions

include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor to provide a computer aided

design system with access to the stored data set.

44. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor-to define the locked data set to include information to call an the-application and to define the unlocked data set to include data to be used by the application.

45. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor-to define as the locked data set version data for the application and to define as the unlocked data set raw data for the second entity to look at or use.

46. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor-to send the stored data set to the second entity.

47. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, further comprising instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to provide the first entity with access to the stored data set, the first entity having permission to view the unlocked data set and to change only the locked data set.

48. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include

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~~instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to provide a computer aided design system with access to the stored data set.

49. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to provide an entity that is external to the first entity with access to the stored data set.

50. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to assign, based on predetermined criteria, data in the stored data set to a locked data set and an unlocked data set.

51. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to include a restricted data set including data that is not part of the locked data set or the unlocked data set.

52. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to assign data to the locked data set based on a closeness criteria.

53. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 52, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause ~~a~~ the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include~~

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~~instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to assign data to the locked data set based on at least one of geometric closeness, organizational closeness, and collective closeness.

54. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to assign data in the stored data set to the locked data set and the unlocked data set based on a function of the second entity.

55. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor ~~to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor~~ to define the stored data set to include a the locked data set and an-the unlocked data set for the second entity, the computer program product further comprising instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to:

define data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for all other entities.

56. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 55, wherein the instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to define data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for all other entities include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to define data included in the unlocked data set for the second entity as locked for other entities during a period of time when the second entity has access to the unlocked data set.

57. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, further comprising instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to:

transmit data from the stored data set to the second entity;

receive modified data from the second entity; and

integrate the modified data corresponding to the unlocked data set into the stored data set.

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58. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to define a stored data set maintained by a first entity to include a locked data set and an unlocked data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to define, based on user input, the stored data set to include a the locked data set and an the unlocked data set.

59. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, tangibly stored on one or more computer-readable storage devices, the computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

define a master data set in a first entity;

assign permissions, including permission to change data within the master data set based on predetermined criteria;

transmit a copy of the master data set with indications of the permissions to the second entity, the transmitted copy of the master data set including locked and unlocked data, the locked data in the transmitted copy of the master data set corresponding to unlocked data in the master data set in the first entity and the unlocked data in the transmitted copy of the master data set corresponding to locked data in the master data set in the first entity; and

receive changes to the master data set from the second entity.

60. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, further comprising instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive a modified copy of the master data set from the second entity and to integrate the modified copy of the master data set with the master data set.

61. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 60, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive the modified copy of the master data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive additional data.

62. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 60, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive the modified copy of the master data set include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive changed data.

63. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive changed data include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive data that has been changed in response to design considerations.

64. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign authority to read data.

65. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign authority to change data that is a subset of the transmitted copy of the master data.

66. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign authority to add data.

67. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign authority to delete data.

68. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign authority to access predetermined types of data within the subset.

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69. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 59, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign permissions based on at least one of an identity of an entity, a function of the entity and a user's position within the entity.

70. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to assign permissions based on a user's position within the entity include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to assign permissions according to a hierarchy within a department so that a highest ranking member of a department has a greater number of permissions, and a number and extent of permissions decrease as rank decreases.

71. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, tangibly stored on one or more computer-readable storage devices, the computer program product comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to:

receive, from a first entity, a copy of a master data set with permissions for using the master data set, the master data set including locked and unlocked data, the first permissions allowing changes to the unlocked data and access but no changes to the locked data, the permissions indicating operations that may be performed on the unlocked data and the locked data and applications that the second entity may use for manipulating the unlocked data, the received copy of the master data set including locked and unlocked data, the locked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to unlocked data in the master data set in the first entity and the unlocked data in the received copy of the master data set corresponding to the locked data in the master data set in the first entity;

modify the copy of the master data set according to the permissions and user input to generate a modified copy of the master data set, wherein modifying includes applying one or more of the operations indicated in the permissions to the unlocked data; and

transmit the modified copy of the master data set to the first entity.

72. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 71, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set in a second entity include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set in a computer application.

73. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 72, wherein the instructions include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set in a second entity include instructions operable to cause a programmable processor to receive, in the locked data, version information regarding the computer application and to receive, in the unlocked data, raw data for manipulation.

74. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 72, wherein the instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to modify the copy of the master data set include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to perform design processes on the unlocked portion of the data.

75. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 74, wherein the instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set with permissions for using the master data set include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to receive permissions to do at least one of read, change, delete and add data to the unlocked data.

76. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 71, wherein the instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set with permissions for using the master data set include instructions operable to cause a-the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set with permissions based on subsets of the unlocked data, with different permissions assigned for different subsets of the unlocked data.

77. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 71, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set with permissions for using the master data set include instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive the copy of the master data set with permissions based on at least one of an identity of the second entity, a function of the second entity and a hierarchy of users within the second entity.

78. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 2 wherein providing an application in a computer system with access to the stored data set includes including providing a testing application with access to the stored data set.

79. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing a the second entity with access to the stored data set includes including providing a testing entity with access to the stored data set.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein receiving additional data includes receiving test results.

81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein receiving changed data includes receiving data that has been changed in response to testing.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein modifying the copy of the master data set includes performing testing on the unlocked portion of the data.

83. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 41, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to provide an the application in a the computer system with access to the stored data set includes the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to provide a testing application with access to the stored data set.

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84. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 40, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to provide a the second entity with access to the stored data set includes the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to provide a testing entity with access to the stored data set.

85. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 61, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive the additional data include instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive test results.

86. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 62, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive the changed data include instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to receive data that has been changed in response to testing.

87. (Currently amended) The computer program product of claim 72, wherein the instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to modify the copy of the master data set include instructions operable to cause a the programmable processor to perform testing on the unlocked portion of the data.